A SPEECH

MADE BY

SERGEANT WILD

In the Honourable Houſe of

COMMONS,

IN THE CAUSE OF

Mercurius Britanicus.

As it was alſo (the next day) delivered from his own Mouth in a Boate, as he paſt between the Temple Staires, and *Weſtminſter* Bridge, heretofore call'd KINGS Bridge.

M. DC. XXXXV.

Mr SERGEANT WILD

His Speech in the Honourable Houſe of *Commons*, the 32. of *May*, in the Cauſe of *Mercurius Britanicus*.

WE related unto you in our laſt worke, the two, (or both) the Houſes were totally or wholly buſied all day, (or from Morning till Night) concerning what rewards *Mercurius Britanicus* was worthy to have, for his ſerviceable, laudable, and indefatigable paines-taking, in his weekly writings for the Parliament, where many of the Houſe of Commons, were of opinion, that the Gentleman had deſerv'd well, but there was no reſolved or ſetled reſolution amongſt them, what to determine of him; where contrary to the wiſdome, witte, ſence, reaſon, and inclination of the Houſe, the Grave and Ancient Knight (Sir *Benjamin Ruddyard*) only oppoſing, and bitterly inveighing againſt him, (as we have truly related in our former occurrences of the 31. of *Aprill* laſt) where that important buſineſſe was left to the diſcretion and cenſure of the Houſe. So that this day the matter being againe renewed and debated on, Mr Sergeant *Wilde*, was appointed to plead in the caſe of *Britanicus*, who like a ſecond *Cicero*, or a double demie *Demoſthenes*, declar'd himſelfe both a Learned Advocate, and an Eloquent Orator as followeth.

RIght Honourable, and moſt conſtant Conſcript Patriots, if the worth and merits of the Gentleman in whoſe cauſe I ſpeake at this time, be well weighed and conſidered, the ſpeech of an Advocate would be ſuperfluous, and time being

ſo pretious as it is, this Honourable Aſſembly might imploy it in more neceſſary and urgent occaſions. But when a perſon ſo high deſerving, is malignantly traduc'd, and the Magnificent Beneficence of your unparallel'd gratitude to noble endeavourers, and ſtudious paines-takers, ſo tranſcendently calumniated, it is then high time to ſpeak, if his own deſerts were tongue-tied, dumb, mute, ſilent or ſpeechleſſe.

I have read in the voluminous collections of Mr *Samuell Purchas*, (intituled *Purchas his Pilgrimage*) of the Kingdom of *Borneo* in the *East India*. The King of that vaſt Region (although he be a Prince of mighty unlimitable Potency, for Territories, Men, Armes, Ammunition, Artillery and Mony) yet the ſafeſt and chiefeſt truſty guard for his perſon, is a Regiment of Dogges, thoſe Dogges are his only Life-guard, in whoſe ſerviceable fidelity, his Majeſticall ſecurity doth totally conſiſt. This Canicular alluſion, is not impertinent to my following, or ſubſequent interlocution. For though a man hath not the ſhape or appetite of a Dogge, yet no man hath cauſe to be aſham'd to imitate a Dogge in fidelity to his Maſter. Call to your remembrance (I humbly beſeech you) that the Reverend Preachers, and Learned writers of eloquent perſwaſive Pamphlets, and weekly newes, have not plaid the parts of dumb Dogges, but with their vigilant and violent barking, ſnarling and byteing, they have (with an *Vliſſean* emulation and imitation) been more powerfull, then the ſtrongeſt *Ajaxian* Army or Sword in the gaining of the ſeavenfold ſhield, and divine tempor'd Armour of the moſt valiant *Achilles* with his multitude of *Mirmidons*.

It is apparent that had it not been for the perpetuall ſupportation, that this Parliament hath had, by the happy meanes of thoſe famous Lecturers, and Learned Writers, the Kings party had long ſince prevailed, and the Proteſtant Religion had flouriſhed and been maintained amongſt us, in ſpight of our teethes. But they, (and none but they are the chiefe Propps, Pillars, Miniſters, and Inſtruments, that have both built, fram'd, erected, and upheld, the unparallel'd Geometricall fabrick of all the Mighty unexampled atchievements,

ments, which (to our lasting renowne) we have accomplished, and may happily proceed in: for these men, have not only fully engrafted the People, with a constant beliefe of us, that our consultations are unerrible, our judgements infallible, our decrees unalterable, our opinions immutable, our power impregnable, our force invincible, and all our Actions unquestionable; by which meanes, they have continually furnished us, with meanes and maintenance defensive and offensive, of Men, Mony, Shipping, of all the Kings Houses, Strengths, fortresses, and Revenues, and finally of any thing, and all things whereby we subsist.

Amongst the many and numerous Multiplicity of those famous Authors, the industrious and acute *Mercurius Britanicus*, hath bin, and is the *Atlas* of our foundation, and the Topgaliant of our felicity. Who hath so vehemently revil'd the King, who hath more contumeliously rail'd against the Queen, who hath more Learnedly scandaliz'd the Peeres, who hath more Religiously abused the Protestant Religion, who hath more piously scandall'd the Common-prayer-booke, who hath so Reverendly vilified the Clergy, who hath more violently slander'd the Kings Servants, who hath more Wittily bejeer'd the Cavaliers, and who hath more prettily run the hazard of a *Gregorian* danger then he? And all these services he hath done for us, for which my opinion is, that we cannot doe too much for him.

I must confesse the rest have done well, but as there are degrees (as our Logicians say) of *Good*, *Better*, and *Best*, so that though Mr *Booker*, M. *Nye*, and M. *Lilly*, have done most Excellent-ly, *Astronomical-lye*, *Astrologicall-lye*, *Mathematical-lye*, and *Chronological lye*, in their infusing into the Peoples credulity, the predictions and pretendings, of Auspitious and Parliamentall Proditorious Events; wherein if the Starres and Planets have either not kept touch (or promise with them) or that betwixt the Constellations, Revolutions, and Influences of the Celestiall Orbes, Spheares, and Hemispheares, and the Terrestriall Globe there is such distance, that intelligence may faile, messengers may meet with some Malevolent dis-

afters, Letters may be intercepted, and many impediments may chance to alter and change the concluſions, that ſuch Aſtronomers do ground upon, as it did with M. *Booker*, when his pretences fail'd in the taking of *Oxford*, with two Armies the 29. of *May* laſt 1644. although all our Labour was not then loſt, for with the dropping downe of no more then 700 of our men, we ſaw *Oxford*, and Conquer'd a Mill foure miles from thence, and we alſo took two Carts, laden with Bedſteads, joyn'd-ſtooles, Waſhing-bolles, and Bucking-tubbs. Concerning Captain *George Wither*, it cannot be deny'd, but he hath approv'd himſelfe to be the Creame of Wiſdom, the Lees of Wit, the Pith, Marrow, and Marrow-bone of Invention, for our ſakes, cauſe, and defence, he hath mounted the two top'd *Pernaſſus*, pump'd at *Hellicon*, and drain'd the *Theſpian* fountain, he hath Ranſack'd the *Muſes*, rifl'd the *Furies*, Plunder'd the *Divell*, and Raked Hell, and all this he hath done for our ſervices (as his Learned volumne called *Campo-Muſæ* will teſtify. As for the *Scowte*, the *Scottiſh Dove*, the *Poſt*, *Mercurius Civicus*, the *Diurnalls*, *Occurrences*, Weekly Newes Bookes, and other Aydes, Helps, and Aſſiſtants, It muſt be gratefully acknowledged, that their Labours have bin prevalent, againſt the Malevolent, though not Equivalent to the moſt meritorious *Mercurius Britanicus*.

What though *Taylor* the *Thameſiſſian Aquatican*, *Humidian*, *Hydromantian* & *Hidropican* Poet, hath ſmatteringly ſputter'd at his fame, & moſt *Amaritudanically* diſſected & Embowell'd his Reputation; Though many of our Malignants, have mounted their Penns againſt him, as we have done our Cannons (or the Kings) againſt we know (and know not) whom: yet nevertheleſſe, *Hopes Anchor* hath Moar'd him, *Fortitudes Pillar* hath ſupported him, *Perſeverance* hath ſpur'd him forward, Opportunity hath been his Handmaide; and old *Time* (himſelfe) hath not diſdain'd to wait on him, as a Page, or (as the Proverb ſaies) *a T' Anthony Pigge*. So that for our Service, Honour, and dignity, he hath been more violent and vigilant, then all the reſt of the Pack; Therefore to put an end, to finiſh, to make a concluſion, to come to a full poynt, to ſhut up all

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with a Period, and briefly (to avoyd Tautology) in a word, to speak faithfully and fully, as I said before, of the King of *Bonea's* Guard of Dogges, so all those forementioned Worthies, have been, and are a diligent, watchfull, and strong guard, for the defence and support of all that we have attempted or accomplished against the King, the Queen, the Nobility, Gentry, Commons, and all that doe either adhere, affect, ayde, assist, serve, honour or obey, any of the Malignants cause, Person or Party, amongst which *Mercurius Britanicus* hath been the most unmatchable, bold, brave, barking, brauling, biting *Bandogge*, and deserves to be held as Captain of all our Guards of Writers, Speakers, Preachers, either for Pulpit, Pen, Presse, Print, or, (as a man may say) and so forth.

I will not derogate from the Learned, or detract, diminish, or extenuate, the worths of other famous men in this kind, especially Mr *Henry Burton*, and Mr *William Prinne*, they have acted their parts *Tragicomically*, and have (for the propogation of our matchlesse and unexemplified *Herculean* Labours) most Lawfully and Worthily, ascended to fames *Pillor*, *I*, but though these grave *Solons*, and Reverend Renowned *Anaxagor-Asses*, have unanimously, joyntly, and severally done us services, beyond all *Guerdon*, yet for as much as they are in a disconcordance, a disunion betwixt themselves, a disparitie of opinions, or (to avoid tediousnesse) a kind of a contention.

For the much more then nine times most Reverend Mr *Burton*, he is elevated into the Heroick Humour, and inspir'd with the all commanding spirit of *Pompeius Magnus*, who would have no Equall; and Mr *Prinne*, is of the milder Majestick opinion of *Cæsar*, to allow equalls, but no superiors. The one will be *Dominus Fac-totum*, a Nowne Substantive, or a Substantiall Independent, to command, & not to be countermanded; The other is possest, that the Parochiall Presbytery is more justly equall, and may better spinne out these our gainfull distractions, and weave out the Warre many a faire yeare (that we be not forc'd to a Peace against our wills.) Thus these two, or this Brace of our Maine Pillars, can neither agree, nor fall together by the Eares.

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To Returne from whence I have digres'd (*Mercurius Britanicus*) whose merits I have partly shewed, how he was vilified in this Honourable Assembly, I need not to repeate, for his services I think him worthy of 200l *per annum* out of the *Publique Faith's* next Edition, or else (your grave wisdom's, may take into your considerations, that he is an able Gentleman, and as capable to be made Lord keeper of our new Great Seale as my selfe, or else he can performe and execute the office of the Master of the *Rolls*, as sufficiently as Mr Speaker (without disparagement) and so I leave him and his deserts to your wisdoms Honourable dispossall, and I also leave Sir *Benjamin Ruddyard* (who so boldly affronted and calumniated *Mercurius Britanicus*) to your just and unerring censures.

At the end, conclusion, or Catastrophe of this speech, the whole house was in a generall pawse or silence, each of them Rap'd, or (as it were transported with an extasie) struck with a suddaine Admiration, at the composure, delivery, accent, cadence, emphasis, utterance, volubility, eloquence, elocution, and ornated phrase or stile, of the Learned Sergeant, that at last, they all were pleas'd (after some particular favourable coughs and hums) to applaud him with a respective venerable generall Hum, (in token of Approbation) and with all clapping their hands (with an unanimous acclamation) they gave such a shout that the noyse was heard, from *Westminster* to *Wapping*, and Saint *Thomas waterings*, and when all was ended, the old Knight (Sir *Ben. Rud.*) was confin'd to his Chamber, and *Mercurius Britanicus* his cause, was refer'd to an afternoon-Committee.

FINIS.

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